

INSIDE: NEW CHEESECAKE, FRESH "PROPOSALS," BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Wrestling: Successful Season Approaches Final Tournament



Senior Brooks Tate mercilessly dominates his opponent

by JUSTIN HALL
Sports Editor

While most of you were preparing for a long winter break or going to Harpeth Hall's Winter Formal, the MBA varsity wrestling team headed to Chattanooga to wrestle in the 25th annual McCallie Invitational. The team placed 8th overall in the team standings, which is one of the best finishes MBA has had at this tournament in the last several years. After many heartbreaking losses in the rounds determining placemen, three wrestlers did place: Jeff Francis, who took 2nd at 103 pounds, John Michael Simpson, who won 1st place at 119 pounds, and Justin Hall, who placed 4th at 152 pounds.

The MBA wrestlers began winter practices with a new focus, determination, and a resurrected wrestler in 160-pounder Andy Snyder to prepare for the Sycamore War Eagle Duals. At the Duals, MBA steamrolled St. Benedict, Hendersonville, and Kenwood before finally demolishing Christian Brothers 52-15 in the finals to bring home the championship.

Immediately after Christmas, MBA wrestled in our own MBA Duals. MBA competed in five matches en route to winning the tournament. MBA defeated Overton, Franklin Road Academy, Tullahoma, Mt. Juliet, and finally Smyrna, defeating each team by a minimum of 34 points. According to senior Andy Snyder,

"the team wrestled hard. We're working to prove we can win a state championship."

MBA traveled cross-town the next weekend to compete in the annual Father Ryan Invitational. MBA placed an overall second in the tournament, a feat few MBA teams have ever accomplished. MBA placed directly ahead of the McCallie School by placing eleven of fourteen wrestlers. Earning medals at the tournament were Jeff Francis at 103 (2nd), John Michael Simpson at 119 (1st), Daniel Todd at 130 (7th), Mike Herron at 135 (7th), Wes McKeithan at 140 (7th), Ben Bellet at 145 (5th), Justin Hall at 152 (5th), Andy Snyder at 160 (5th), Brooks Tate at 171 (5th), Nicholas Jacques at 189 (5th), and Allen Riley at 275 (5th). "While bringing home a piece of Father Ryan hardware is nice, the team still has a lot of work ahead of them," said Coach Jenkins after the tournament. The grapplers wrestled Brentwood Academy the following Tuesday, securing a sound 44-

continued on p.4

New Endowment - For MBA's Growth and Evolution

What Would MBA Do With \$50 Mil?

by DAVID WHEELER
Features Editor

Many of you have already noticed the first signs. The grass of our sacred field has been torn to pieces by backhoes and steamrollers. Mounds of dirt sit beside Brighton Road where houses used to be. Talk is murmuring of an observatory under construction, and complete renovations of the language labs are underway. These are just the first steps in a much larger plan for the future of MBA.

This plan, which was developed about eight years ago, has waited a long time for implementation to begin. It involves a massive overhaul of the athletic, art, and parking facilities, coupled with expansion, both here on the Hill and at our new Long Mountain site.

The first visible step in this process has been the installation of field turf on the varsity football field. However, in years to come this will not be the varsity football field. The stadium will be moved to the site of varsity football practice field #1, also known as the soccer field. The tennis courts will be moved to the land that is now along Brighton Road near the baseball fields and will be replaced by a soccer field that hopefully will not be torn up every year by the

football team. The gym will be expanded into the current senior lot, allowing room for five total basketball courts, a larger wrestling room, an indoor track, and, of course, a weight room doubled in size. All of this will be supplemented by a new parking lot down the entire southeast side of campus from Montgomery Bell Avenue all the way to Wilson.

The project also hopes to bring the arts more into the MBA community by converting the current cafeteria into music and theater space. The cafeteria will find a new home in Wallace, and the academic portion will be completed with the creation of another classroom building behind Wallace.

continued on p.2

INSIDE:

NEWS:	2-3
SPORTS:	4-5
FOOD REVIEWS:	6-7
SATIRE:	8
ENTERTAINMENT:	9



New artificial turf to be installed; heavy machinery breaks new homes on MBA field



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

The Bell Ringer Congratulates Chris Schuller

Past Bell Ringer Editor (2003-2004) Christopher Schuller has accepted the appointment to be the editor of *Isis*, Oxford University's termly magazine. *Isis* includes articles primarily concerning Oxford in current events, culture, fashion, and literature.

Isis was started in 1892, and past contributors have included Graham Greene, Sylvia Plath, and Nigella Lawson. During a financial crisis for the magazine during the 1960's Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor generously gave money to bring the *Isis* back to solvency.

The Bell Ringer salutes a local boy who has risen to the top!



MBA Growth

Continued from p.1

Construction on the recently acquired Long Mountain site looks to complement the efforts made to improve the Nashville campus. In addition to the observatory, MBA hopes to create a setting similar to the one visited by every seventh grader at Camp Laney. The site will feature cabins, an open-air pavilion, dining hall, and a high ropes course. It will be a great opportunity for MBA to promote class retreats and, also, to establish a summer camp for inner-city youth.

The less visible, but easily more important, side of this project is the contribution to MBA's endowment. Increases in the endowment will let MBA keep its tuition from rising too steeply. Imagine a world in fifty years where tuitions of other schools, like Ensworth, have risen to insane figures like \$80,000 a year. MBA needs the endowment to hold its tuition during the same time period to the same level, if not less than, it is right now. This will help make MBA more affordable for middle class families who do not qualify for financial aid.

When I talked to Mr. Gioia about this \$50 million campaign, he wanted to make it clear to me and to the school that this is "not a reflection of the arms race among schools." MBA wants a bigger weight room because the current one is very crowded right now, not because Ensworth has a larger weight room than MBA. Mr. Gioia also said that he believes that some of the changes, especially the promotion of the arts and the expansion of the parking facilities, should change the community's perception of the school to be more welcoming and friendly instead of (as now we must) putting up cones to inhibit parking during football games. All of these changes are just more steps in the continuing evolution of the campus where the present both reflects the past and is a prelude to the future.



Football field gets face-lift

SERVICE CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

Relay for Life

Benefiting the American Cancer Society

Help raise money for cancer research, while earning an invitation to an all-night party.

On April 28th from 10 P.M. to 10 A.M. anyone who is involved or gives money is invited to come celebrate on the Harpeth Hall soccer field with music, dancing, and fun, all in the name of cancer research. Register to help online at www.acsevents.org/relay/tn/harpethhall (find the "Sign up Here" icon in the menu on the left side). There are teams for each of the four high school classes (MBA Seniors, MBA Juniors, etc...). Prizes will be awarded for raising the most money in each grade.

Meet in Pfeiffer Lecture Hall on Thursday, February 16th to learn more.

Up-Coming Event Calendar

- February 18
Regional Science Olympiad (at MTSU)
and Nashville Mock Trial Competition (at Metro Courthouse)
- February 20
President's Day - NO CLASSES
- February 22
Cum Laude Recognition - COAT AND TIE
- February 23
100 Days to Graduation Senior Breakfast (7:00 am)
and The Government Inspector opens (see p. 9 for more info)
- February 24
Varsity Swimming State Championships (at Sportsplex)
- February 28
Totomoi Spring Tapping - COAT AND TIE
- March 5
Concert with Nashville Symphony (4:00 pm)
- March 11
Project Graduation Disco
- March 16
Spring Break begins

National Merit Finalists

The Bell Ringer would like to congratulate the following seniors for receiving recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) as Finalists in the 2006 competition for Merit Scholarship Awards:

Eric Belter, Pete Burgess, David Downing, Eddie Ebbert, Nicholas Jacques, Jordan Klein, Kevin Seitz, David Syverud, David Wheeler, and Mitchell Williams

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? OPINIONS? IDEAS?

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Senior Luge

MICHAEL MARKS
by Staff Writer

Gentlemen, start your slides! With the end of the first semester, many of my fellow seniors have prepared to spend their next three months completely carefree. Congratulations; graduation is just around the corner.

A large number of seniors have gotten into college. I originally planned on mentioning names, but there are too many people and I've stopped caring. Due to the increased change in the senior room, many seniors have adapted their studies to fit the new surroundings. Some students have been seen in Toby Simpson's strategic tutorials: Principles of Connect Four, or his advanced session, Connecting the Four AP. Other students have been working on memorizing the Scrabble dictionary. Houston Nelson has even begun downloading possible defenses for Stratego. Luckily, it appears

that the seniors have had very little trouble finding distractions for PL study hall.

In the realm of the theater, the upcoming play, *The Government Inspector*, shows off the comedy of both Senior Tommy Cortis and Senior Matthew Behar. As a cast member, I encourage everyone to come see this hilarious production, which features a large number of seniors.

The Senior Class's Club de Libros is still finishing up their analysis of *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil*. They plan on discussing the book at the next meeting, which has yet to be scheduled.

Four members of the senior class, Kevin Seitz, Hunter Kopald, Jeffrey Zager, and Michael Marks, were inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Society. Please congratulate these seniors, and those previously inducted for their continued service to the community.



Jeff Eberle in the Annual Shakespeare Competition

Tenth-Grade Topics

by JAY MILAM
Staff Writer

Sophomores have begun 2006 with some standout performances. The swim team took home a fourth-place finish in the Middle Tennessee Region Championships, in which Curtis Lovelace finished first and Tyler Ramsden seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke. Curtis also got second place in the 200-yard Individual Medley, and he and Tyler were part of a fifth place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Away from MBA, Curtis continued his swimming dominance by being part of a freestyle relay team that broke the United States Swimming Southeastern record for 15-16 year old boys.

Brendan Mayhew was recently inducted into the International Thespian Society for his stellar acting.

Rand Woodson bowled highs of 241 and 257 despite the bowling team's first-round loss in the state tournament.

The wrestling team stomped rival Father Ryan last month. Luke Bellet secured the first win of the night with a 7-5 decision. Christian Waddey came off the bench to give MBA another huge victory with a 14-6 major decision.

Sophomore debaters performed well in the Samford University Tournament with the Varsity Policy Team of Mason Braswell and Kyle Davis taking first place. Also in Varsity Policy, Alec Martin and Robert Awh reached the quarterfinals. Corey Metzman made it to the finals in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas.

The JV basketball team beat David Lipscomb 56-47. David Davies shot a season-high 12 points, while Carlton Baker added 10. The team held off McCallie 55-42 thanks to Austin Bennett's game-high 17 points and William Davis' 13 points.

In hockey, the crowd favorite Clay Christain scored his first goal while Chris Fike added another to help MBA crush Lavergne/MLK 8-0.

Frolicking Freshman

by DANIEL GREEN
Staff Writer

The freshmen have been an active group in the MBA community since the holidays. The ninth-grade basketball team finished off their season with a record of 9-7 and wins over Father Ryan, Hume-Fogg (2), Hillwood, Overton, and Hillsboro. The Big Red lost to Ensworth in the City Tournament to end the season. All players gave strong contributions throughout the season: Patrick Crum led the team in scoring most of the year, Ryan King and Reggie Ford posted good and consistent performances, and Owen Lipscomb dominated the glass on both ends. Congratulations to Patrick Crum on being named to the All-Tournament team.

The hockey team has also received some great contributions from the Frosh. Bailey Brandon posted goals in wins against Franklin (2), Brentwood Academy/Ezell Harding, BGA, Lavergne/MLK, and the game-tying goal against Centennial/Spring Hill. John Vorholt also posted solid performances in goal against Franklin, BA/Ezell Harding, Father Ryan, and Beech. The Big Red take on Mt. Juliet in the playoffs on Monday the 13th.

The freshman wrestling team posted the impressive record of 10-0 and three tournament wins during their season. In the Brentwood High School Tournament, the Big Red were led by first place finishers Aaron Barrett, John Floyd, Max Jarrell, and Reed Stanberry, and third place finishers Dent Shillinglaw, Barrett Jacques, Bo Buchanan, and Patrick

Hallahan. In the City Championships, Barrett Jacques, John Floyd, and Max Jarrell took home first place; Reed Stanberry and Aaron Barrett placed second; Dent Shillinglaw and Patrick Hallahan logged third place finishes; and Scott Bubis took fourth place. The team had great wins against Dickson County, McCallie, NW Whitfield (GA), and Father Ryan to close out the season. Jeff Francis has been a valuable asset to the varsity wrestling team with wins against JPIL, Father Ryan (2), McCallie, Christian Brothers, and a second place finish in the Father Ryan Invitational.

In novice policy debate, Sam Page and Rahul Sastry won the tournament at Samford College and Jimmy Balser and Fadi Pulous reached the semifinals in the same tournament.

Congratulations to the gold winners of the 2006 Scholastic Awards: Bradford Norton, Chunbum Park, Matt Ractliffe, and silver winner Max Molteni.

A second congratulations goes to Austin Archer, Nicholas Caprioli, Will Holt, Alex Martin, and Don Orr on being inducted into the International Thespian Society for their work in the theater productions at MBA. Good luck to the cast of *O, What a Lovely War* as they travel to Orlando to perform in the national tournament soon!

Lastly, the freshman class happily welcomes back Reed Stanberry from a successful operation on a cyst last week.

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Ice Warnings, School Closings: MBA Hockey Still Driving

by TRAVIS BRANNON
Staff Writer

The 2005-2006 Big Red Hockey team has finished off a strong regular season with a record of 15-2-1. The season started off strong with a 5-0 win against FRA with the help of John Vorholt's premiere game shootout. Less than a week later, the Big Red faced off against Hendersonville and lost a heartbreaker 1-0, when a goal slipped past Vorholt with less than two seconds left. But the team rebounded with a strong seven-game winning streak. These games were highlighted with Alex Mazzoni's buzzer beating game winner against USN/Hume-Fogg and tremendous play by the two other seniors, Joseph Alexander and Hunter Armistead. MBA's momentum ended after a 2-1 loss to Beech, in which the winning goal was scored in the last few minutes of the game.

Pat Manning and the Ice-Deities rebounded from the loss with a strong victory over the mighty Centennial High School, in which Chris Fike and Chipo Mulaishio stunned the six MBA fans attending the game with a third period comeback. The next week the Big Red showed a great effort against rivaling Ravenwood and held the league leaders to a tie on an exam night. The Big Red finished their regular season with success, clinching a six-game winning streak and momentum, as they make their way into the playoffs. The playoff competition began with a 7:00 game

against Beech on February 10.

Although the players of the team played great, with Mark Piana leading the team with 32 points and Vorholt with an outstanding save percentage, their success cannot be solely contributed to their skill. The Big Red Hockey Team has something that most other teams in league lack. During almost every game the hockey team plays with an extra player. This extra player is infamous in the league for encouragement and smack-talk. This extra player is the mass of hockey fans that arrives at the games ready to get dirty. Hours before the puck is even dropped, hot dogs are seared and music is blasted in the Sportsplex parking lot. The fans make the infamous "Mulaishio March" into the stadium, during which the ear-drum-puncturing conch, baritone and harmonica are heard from miles away, sending shivers down the opposing team's spines. As the juggernaut of fans enters the doors of the hockey rink, heads turn and jaws drop. It is reported that urine has been expelled from 84% of every goalie in the league on the arrival of these fans. Donning Chipo shirts, flags, and coffee mugs, the fans scream their lungs out for three periods straight. All that the team asks now is for the fans to return for the playoffs with even more energy and fire. Hopefully, an extra push will help the Big Red advance far into the playoffs and win the league championship. They continue toward the finals with victories over both Beech and M.t Juliet behind them.



Opponents cower in fear at Senior Alex Mazzoni's approach

Basketball Still Balling

by ALLAN RILEY
Sports Editor

The 2005-2006 Big Red basketball team has had high hopes for this year's season. Led by returning seniors Deon Gaines, Nick Anand, Ryan Coopwood, Scott Hearn and Thomas Sanders, MBA has the experience to claim their first region title since 2001. The Big Red opened up its season in the Hall of Fame game against White House-Heritage. MBA overcame 24 turnovers and a 23-18 halftime deficit to win by a score of 45-38. Seniors Deon Gaines and Thomas Sanders led the way for the Big Red with ten points each. Junior David Smith nailed six of six free throws down the stretch as he helped his squad outscore White House Heritage 16-7 in the fourth quarter. Senior Nick Anand said: "This was a good win for us. We've got to limit our turnovers so we don't dig ourselves into a hole early."

After a big road win over White House High School, led by Deon Gaines with 16 points, the Big Red was set to take on a tough Mt. Juliet squad on the road. Unfortunately MBA came up short by a score of 53-50. Junior Charlie Plageman led the way with 16 points while Gaines and fellow junior Sam Little added 13 respectively. Little

commented, "They have a great team and we played really tough. We're starting produce more offensively, but we have to play better defense."

The Big Red then came home for its next two games against hated rivals MUS and Christian Brothers. The Owls of MUS proved to be too much as they trounced the Big Red 53-32. Gaines led the effort with 8 points, as Peter Zanca led the way for MUS with 17 points. Perennial power Christian Brothers awaited MBA on Saturday night. Led by junior Chris Walker's 17 points and 8 rebounds, the Purple Wave downed MBA by a core of 60-46. Scott Hearn nailed two big three pointers down the stretch for the Big Red, but the Wave proved to be too much to handle.

After tough region losses to BGA and Father Ryan, the Big Red rebounded against USN, thanks to Anand's three-pointer at the buzzer to claim a 42-39 victory. After a very successful trip to Memphis where MBA went 2-1, the Big Red defeated rival Father Ryan for the first time in five years. Gaines led the way with 16 points, while David Smith added 8 points. MBA will look to continue their win streak as they travel to Chattanooga to take on Baylor and McCallie. After that, region foes USN and JPII await where region seedings will be on the line.

Wrestling Moves toward State Individuals

Continued from p.1

24 victory in our first region match-up.

After the exams the true bulk of the season began for the MBA wrestling team. With the remaining region matches and the two state tournaments all within a month's time, the team wrestled as hard as possible to prepare. On wrestling's Senior Night, MBA wrestled both Pope John Paul II and Ensworth High School. After a senior introduction and a national anthem sung by senior Nathan Deutsch, the MBA wrestlers commenced to whip the Knights and the Tigers. With every senior participating at least once, MBA defeated PJPII 69-14 and Ensworth 58-4. It was a great final home match for this group of 11 MBA senior wrestlers.

Then on Friday, January 27th, came the perennially biggest match of the year, MBA vs. Father Ryan. Always the most hyped match of the year, "both teams always step their game up to a new level" said Head Coach Frank Simpson. In front of a crowd of almost 1500 fans, MBA started the match with a win at the 130-pound weight class. Things quickly turned in Ryan's favor with two upsets to give the Irish a 6-3 lead. MBA powered back and overwhelmed the Irish, winning 9 of the next 11 matches to take a commanding 38-13 victory. Registering wins for the Big Red were Luke Bellet, Ben Bellet, Christian Waddey, Andy Snyder, Nicholas Jacques, Michael Swett, Allen Riley, Jeff Francis, Andy Stack, and

John Michael Simpson. MBA headed into the state dual tournament as undefeated region champions "ready to earn some respect from around the state," said senior Allen Riley.

MBA took 3rd place in the duals after a heartbreaking loss in the semi-finals to eventual champion the McCallie School. In the most heated match of the entire dual tournament, MBA lost by two points in a brawl that came down to the very last weight class. Even with wins in eight of fourteen weight classes and tremendous wins by Brooks Tate, Michael Swett, and Allen Riley, MBA lost 28-26 with a final win by Wes McKeithan in the last matchup of the dual. Hurt but not broken, MBA bounced back and rolled through the consolations, defeating Christian Brothers 43-22 to enter the consolation finals. MBA wrestled hometown rival Father Ryan in the dual consolation finals for a rematch of the previous weekend's region dual finals, where MBA earned a repeat slaughter by a score of 43-19.

"I am very proud of the team and their effort. This is the MBA of new," says Head Coach Frank Simpson. "They have the potential to win it all at the state individuals. And I believe we can". A huge thanks goes to the entire faculty and all the fans, especially Terrell McWhirter, for supporting the team this season. This weekend MBA travels to Chattanooga to compete in the Individual State championships with aspirations to win it all in the McKenzie Arenza of UTC.



MBA Basketball fights for every point



Mike Herron ('07) and McGavock Johnson ('06) at MBA's Health Fair reveal that the quest for knowledge does not cease at the classroom door

MBA Ultimate Destroys Everything In Path To Nationals

by DAVID REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

The MBA Ultimate Frisbee team has managed to fend off all of its challengers and complete the regular season undefeated with easy wins over Hume-Fogg, CPA, Hillsboro, and USN (who was too cowardly to even show up for several scheduled matches). Since all the games were blowouts and the Big Red was never challenged, the highlights are too numerous to mention as "Team Cardinal" established its dominance again and again with its array of disc-hurling skills. It is worth noting, however, that Buck "Rage" Curley managed to offend every team (both fans and players) with his brash trash talk.

The main concern over the fledgling sport of Ultimate at MBA remains the question of its legitimacy. Whispers on the Hill have been uttered over how Frisbee is "not a real sport." While maybe the TSSAA has refused to recognize Ultimate, practices until five

o'clock five days a week are certainly no walk in the park. Of course, with the sport being Ultimate, the season is naturally fairly laid-back and enjoyable, but it does take work to become a cohesive unit. And even though our sport is not even recognized at the winter sports assembly, we're still the best hope for a state title this year for MBA.

As the season closes and spring sports steal away the Ultimate athletes, several tournaments remain at which Los Banditos will put their undefeated record to the test. The first, the Mud Bowl in Talladega, Alabama, pits the Big Red against college teams, including traditional SEC powerhouses Auburn, Alabama, Arkansas, and Georgia. After hopefully a strong finish in Dixieland, the team will descend back to the high school level and challenge some of the top high school teams in the Southeast in Atlanta at a tournament called Terminus. If the team plays at its peak level at Terminus, a nationals bid could be within reach in the final game of the tournament.

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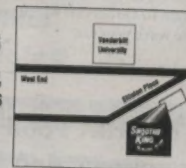
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The Food Club Sinks Its Teeth Into The Cheesecake Factory

by NICK ANAND, SCOTT HEARON,
BROOKS TATE
Staff Consumers

The newest addition to the Green Hills Mall variety of restaurants is The Cheesecake Factory, complete with elaborate decoration and endless wait times. The first menu item that enters the mind when one thinks of The Cheesecake Factory is obvious: cheesecake. However, in fact, the menu has more items than most restaurants, offering everything from steaks to pastas to Sunday brunch. Once your mind has dealt with the huge range of choices, the body then must manage the huge portions of food delivered to your table. It is no secret that it is difficult to finish a full, 3-course meal at The Cheesecake Factory. Customers are always seen holding carryout boxes as they slowly leave the restaurant with their pants bursting at the seams. Yet, the common feeling is, though there is plenty of food, the rich flavors seem to be lacking in a few of the entrée items. The cheesecake is clearly the best that Nashville has to offer, with nearly 35 different types available.

The Cheesecake Factory definitely offers a plethora of options for your entrée. The menu looks more like a book than the typical one-page menus. Whether you're craving Mexican, Italian, breakfast, or just a good burger, you can find it at The Cheesecake Factory. The Ranch House Burger was one of the restaurant's unique meals. It begins as a typical bacon cheeseburger and then adds slivers of steak in the cheese to give the burger that extra boost. Don't expect to finish this one, or any of the Factory's portions. They have free to-go boxes and intend for you to use them.

Don't want a burger for dinner? The Roadside Sliders are The Cheesecake Factory's version of Krystal's. The Chicken Biscuits is another entrée which seems to be made for two. The taste is nothing spectacular, but the amount is quite unbelievable. The pizzas seem to be the only meals that are not an XL size. The Hawaiian pizza is a tasty dinner if you are a fan of ham and pineapple; you might have a chance of completing this serving.

If you're still afraid of the three-hour wait, you don't have to miss out on the menu. The Cheesecake Factory offers Curbside To-Go Service where you don't have to leave your car.



New The Cheesecake Factory dominates the parking lot of The Green Hills Mall

SOME ITEMS SAMPLED:

Thai Chicken Pasta

Though the quantity of the food on this dish is quite astounding, the authentic Thai taste seems to be lacking. Complete with sautéed chicken, green onion, and a "spicy" peanut sauce, the flavor is very mild compared to authentic Thai cuisine. However, most people would not go to The Cheesecake Factory if they were craving authentic Thai cuisine.

Rating: 3 out of 5 Clints

Chocolate Tuxedo Cream Cheesecake

Of all the chocolate cheesecakes available, the Chocolate Tuxedo Cream Cheesecake offers a striking balance between chocolate, fudge, and cream. While the Godiva Chocolate Cheesecake is the most preferable for pure chocolate lovers, the Tuxedo is a layer of chocolate cheesecake, topped with a thick layer of cream with a fudge crust. The balance is perfect for a chocolate fan who craves a light dessert. Delicious!

Rating: 5 out of 5 Clints

The Honey-Maple Pork Tenderloin

This entrée includes mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables and lives up to the Cheesecake Factory's reputation for extra large entrees. However, the heaps of potatoes and

excessive portion of veggies do little to hide the somewhat average taste of the tenderloin. While the 'loin is adequately tender and sufficiently juicy, it lacks any sort of a honey-maple taste that one would expect from the 'Honey-Maple Pork Tenderloin'. Instead, the meat has a largely unimpressive initial flavor, and it leaves a rather tangy after-taste. Perhaps our waiter confused me with my Indian friend and left off the honey in favor of a few pinches of the nearest spice. Even though the tenderloin is not the rare favorite that I hoped it would be, it is satisfactory for anyone who is a big fan of pork.

The great thing about the Cheesecake Factory is that no matter how average your entrée is there is always the cheesecake to look forward to to fill any void one may be experiencing. But for its mediocrity, I give:

Rating:
2 out of 5 Clint's.



The Snickers Bar Chunk Cheesecake

This dish a la mode does not disappoint. Being historically indifferent to cheesecake myself, I was surprised at the overall goodness of this dessert. The cheesecake by itself would have been satisfying enough, but with the added Snickers's chunks and scoop of vanilla ice cream, life simply "don't get no better."

For the dessert's appealing look and even more delectable taste:

Rating:
4 out of 5 Angeline's.

The MBA Food Club was established in 2004 for the education and appreciation of exquisite food with a dream of enhancing the recognition of Nashville's finer dining.

The Food Club: Eats, Speaks

McDougal's Village Coop

by LUKE BROWN
Food Club Staff

For some time now, David Robinson has been trying to get me and some of our buddies to go to a semi-new restaurant called McDougal's Village Coop. Finally, after hearing Dave talk about how good it was, Andy Snyder and I decided to tag along with Dave one day after a church ball game. What we found was to our liking. The atmosphere was one that would suit almost anyone in the high school age group and seems to be a popular Vandy hang-out as well.

Now that I have talked about everything else, the real reason to go to McDougal's is for the food. They major in the chicken department, but also offer other items like hamburgers. I would recommend a chicken basket, which seems to be the most popular item, with a side order of wings. The loose atmosphere was created by the 20-something owner, whom you will probably meet if you end up going to McDougal's. Even our own Coach Robert Black can be found chillin' with his family at McDougal's. McDougal's is located on Belcourt Ave. off 21st Ave. in Hillsboro Village. Their slogan is "Chicken and Beer", but you can go to McDougal's and have a good time without the latter item of that slogan.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 Clints

J. Alexanders Throws Swell Party

by NATHAN STEAKLEY
Registered Food Club Eater

On the opening weekend of the new J. Alexanders restaurant on West End about three months ago, I, along with twenty others, received a private dinner and a speech from the company CEO. Since everyone else was an adult, I was treated like an adult and received some of their great drinks, and the food was pretty solid too. If anyone can throw a good party, then he or she is my friend, and I say the same for a publicly-owned company; the party was a blast and the restaurant should be awarded our business. It's a great place for a date or a sit-down lunch with the parents to figure out a good punishment for prior mistakes. The food, just as with the White Bridge location, is good and fairly priced. I would highly recommend this new restaurant, and I personally extend the official endorsement of the highly respected Food Club.

Rating: 4 out of 5 Clints

The Bell Ringer congratulates new King Society inductees:

Stockton Beveridge, Jamie Fletcher, Morgan
Gregory, Brendan Kiefer, Hunter Kopald,
Michael Marks, Kevin Seitz, Jeffrey Zager



The entire MLK Society with Mr. Gioia and guest-speaker Chancellor Williams

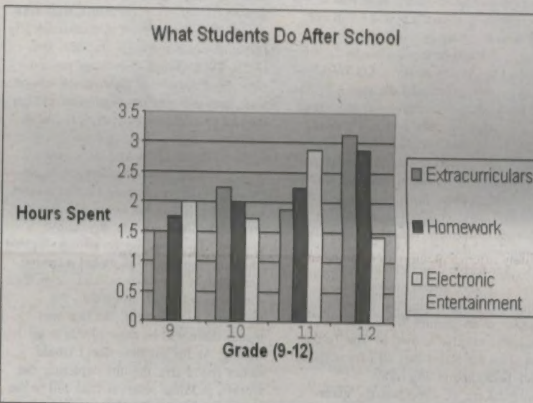
What MBA Students Do After School

by JOHN BIBB
Staff Writer

Montgomery Bell Academy students are supposedly hard-working in and out of school, but are they really? I set out to find the answer to this question. I asked students from the Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes how long they spend doing each of the following after school: extracurricular (MBA-organized) activities, homework, and electronic entertainment.

The results from the sophomores showed that they spend, on average, about two hours studying and a little over an hour and a half using electronics. Freshmen and Juniors both spend more time on entertainment than they do on homework. Of all the classes, however, the Juniors spend the most time playing Xbox or using their computer. One anonymous sophomore said, "That's just typical of this junior class." Seniors, on the other hand, spend the most time studying, and when Sophomore Luke Bellet was asked about the homework load after school he said, "Homework leaves no time for electronic entertainment, except the radio."

Though it seems that MBA students may only do a few hours of homework at home, these results indicate that students have many extracurricular activities and that the majority of MBA students do much of their homework during school.



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Juniors Write Mildly Reasonable "Modest Proposals"

Editor's Note: I hope the point of these pieces is clear. They are written in the spirit of Jonathan Swift's satire, and should be read as such.

For All The "Pansy-mobiles": The Tonka Act

by TRAVIS BRANNON
Staff Writer

As a male blue-collar patriot, I would like to modestly propose... no, modestly demand that all cars weighing less than three tons be banished from the roads and replaced with proper American-made trucks with at least a two-foot lift and forty-inch tires. Only flaming liberal weenies get into their cars without using a diesel-hydraulic powered escalator. Wiping our country free of sedans, minivans, and - God forbid - communist-made Volkswagens was a huge part of our forefathers' grand vision, and I will not rest until this duty is fulfilled.

I stand here patriotically fighting for the true American spirit. On West End today, ninety percent of the cars I witness are puny foreign cars covered in bumper stickers such as, "My Son is a Thespian: Act a Fool," and "W: The Herb." The key reason why our cars should be enlarged to titanic proportions: to run over and rid the world of these protesting, bell-bottom-wearing flower-children, as well as all terrorists, minorities, illegal immigrants, immigrants, non-Christians, homosexuals, and other feeble American citizens.

I have already talked to Congress, in an intelligent, democratic manner, in an attempt to pass the 28th Amendment, also known as The Tonka Act. This act states that all cars without truck beds, hemis, fog lights, loudspeakers, running-boards, gator-lining, and bumper stickers bearing bikini clad women and/or the Confederate Flag must be confiscated and compounded into even bigger muscleman-moving machines.

Unreasonable, you say? How would you like your son to grow up

striving to purchase a Honda Civic in his adulthood? Is that the American Dream? Is the American Dream to pick up your GI-Joe-undressing little boy in a Volkswagen Jetta, and taking him to a soccer store to buy *shinguards*? My American Dream is to pick up my son from the coal mines and take him to Navy SEALs Basic Training in my baby-blue Dodge RAM 1500 Hemi 6-Cylinder Diesel Automatic Dual-Drive Limited Hank Williams Jr. Edition truck.

A few American automotive-defending heroes stand among us at MBA. Wearing pink LaCoste shirts and designer Gucci cowboy boots, they take the dusty trail to school in their ironically feminine-colored trucks, tractors, and tanks. Even though they have missed over three months of their junior school year, they are sure never to miss another day, because their trusty truck is like a rock.

And I know all you whiny, poetry-writing dope-smokers might be asking, "Like, what about mother nature, man? And, like, what about gasoline use, bro? Make love, not war, my fellow kindred." I will answer by telling you that I have no problem with global warming. Personally, I like it warm. And, yeah, the coastlines might creep up into the mainland and whatnot, but that just means there will be more places to go fishing. As for gasoline use, I would rather spend five months depleting the world's gasoline reserves than fall to the liberal tendencies of driving a puny sedan. Even if we have to fight World War III when we run out of oil, everyone will be too scared of our big trucks to consider challenging us. Plus, they know that "we'd put a boot in their a**" - it's the American way.

by MIKE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Amid all of the complaining from students about too much stress or work, one important aspect of the MBA community is completely overlooked: MBA teachers. They work way too hard, overexerting themselves on a daily basis. They work so hard, for example, that they will often make several quizzes or tests in a single week for the students' benefit.

And grading? Who has time to go through mounds of homework, quizzes, and tests, let alone figure out what's wrong with them? It's just too hard for any one person to do. Also, the arithmetic is arduous. Teachers have to plug numbers into *extremely* complex formulas such as quarter averages and semester averages. These grades are keeping them up *all night*. With this enormous burden, the teachers find it hard to get any sleep. Who among us has seen a happy teacher who is excited to be at school? No one. I believe that this lack of enthusiasm is due to overworking.

Therefore, MBA teachers should do much less. During class, teachers should catch up on sleep. The school should provide one bed in every classroom; while students read textbooks, teachers can sleep, knowing that the students are learning. The teacher should also only know a fraction of the material so that the students can keep him or her informed on what is going on and possibly catch errors the teacher may have made in problems or interpretations. This tactic will keep students on their toes and looking for their own mistakes.

Also, the science department, the most hard-working department, should

adopt a policy stating that if a teacher gets tired while grading, he or she should go to sleep on the spot to ensure accuracy. Sleeping will also delay the grading, giving students days, even weeks, to catch up on reading and learn the material that they don't already know.

Teachers should also make it a point to delay giving back homework, quizzes, and tests because they overexert themselves trying to grade them in a timely manner. It's healthy for students to worry about test grades. The anxiety burns off extra calories and gets them in shape for football. Coach Rutledge should request that teachers withhold quizzes and tests simply for the athletic benefit. Also, teachers should *never* give back quizzes and tests before a quarter exam. Withholding the quizzes and tests forces students to study more efficiently. In fact, teachers should never cover material that is on tests, nor should they ever get to school early for extra help sessions. These practices are clearly detrimental to teachers' health and well-being.

Teachers work much harder than students. Students go to bed early, while teachers stay up late. To further the students' learning and level out the work proportionally, the teachers should give at least two hours of work per class. Since students often tend to slack off during theme weeks, and especially on theme nights, the teachers, especially science and history teachers, should pile up homework so students stay busy. Themes take no time at all, and what

continued on p.9

For All the Second Grade Coaches: The Key to Victory

by STOCKTON BEVERIDGE
Staff Writer

In my six years of reffing and scorekeeping for West Nashville Sports League, I have found there to be two types of coaches: those who win, and those who are weak. As we all know, the winning percentage of a second grade recreational basketball team is vital to the players' development into young men. The average second grader will happily sacrifice friendships/playing time/fond memories in the name of victory. It is thus very fortunate that these young men have as role models coaches who know that youth basketball determines the fate of the Western World. These dashing middle-aged men and women rival the likes of Dean Smith or Pat Summitt as they lead coaches to victory.

I would assert, however, that the coaches are not involved enough. The

"strong verbal support," a leadership skill they will no doubt pick up for themselves. Also, the coaches are always willing to offer suggestions to the officials as well, an act frowned upon by the weaker in spirit who lack the competitive edge. Constructive criticism, I say! As a ref, I am always grateful when a coach comes on to the court to stop a game and tell me of my faults.

In one particular instance, a coach nobly came out onto the court and actually blew my whistle for me, telling me that my calls were "ridiculous" and the game "too ****ing rough." Of course, he was right, and therefore I corrected the problem. In fact, I would propose that he go a step further by physically demonstrating on me the fouls that were being committed. I, as a ref, am always appreciative of a coach's suggestions and concerns.

I have a modest proposal for youth basketball coaches to increase their

effectiveness: increase the intensity. To the coach who talks but doesn't yell, pump up the volume. To the coach who is afraid to bend the rules, roll the dice and give your child the victory he or she deserves. My suggestions are few but vital if these second graders are to develop into successful adults.

Physical involvement is crucial. I suggest that each player be forced to wear wired wristbands to which the coach holds a remote. Should a particular player not "fulfill his potential" or fail to play according to the "winning game-plan," a small shock (of varying degrees based on the measure of the offense and dimwittedness of the player) would be administered.

I would also propose that more money be given to youth basketball to facilitate such increased intensity. For example, each game should be filmed from multiple angles, thereby allowing a coach to stop the game and challenge each player

as in professional football. Also, rather than having young children play on teams with their friends, a massive tryout at the beginning of the season would allow "winners" to play together against more "novice" teams. Through such an assessment, those children who are born to win (often the sons and daughters of coaches) can rightfully run up the score on weaker children. Finally, since the coaches are the essential element in youth hoops, tie games should be decided by a cage-match between coaches to ensure that the one who "cares the most" wins.

I can only hope that high schools and colleges aspiring to basketball greatness do not remove these all-knowing and caring role models from our children. God forbid that, in the absence of such leaders, our second graders might never develop into the NBA superstars that most are destined to become.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Schuller Reviews *Brokeback Mountain*

by WILLIAM SCHULLER
Staff Writer

Inasmuch as countless movie critics can be trusted, it can perhaps be taken for granted that *Brokeback Mountain* is a great movie. Director Ang Lee has treated the American West as artfully as he did feudal China in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), crafting with his camera work what almost amounts to a mystical land, a rural idyll, of which two lonely shepherders are masters. Especially in the movie's exposition, where we see the young Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) meet, work, and fall in love, Lee has carefully constructed a kind of environment where snow, dead sheep, bad storms, and the unfair orders and observations of their boss take a back seat to Ennis's and Jack's romance.

This romance, it seems, sparked the intense attention that the public has given the movie. The issue of the herders' sexual orientation, however, can hardly be considered while one watches the film. Gyllenhaal's and Ledger's performances are so convincing and so human that their relationship, though sudden, is far more real, engaging, and interesting than any

number of heterosexual relationships shoddily constructed in other movies.

As intimate observers of Ennis's and Jack's private relationship, the audience becomes an inexorable part of their feelings of isolation, abandonment, and helplessness that dominate their lives after their first experience on *Brokeback Mountain*. The audience, therefore, shares the relief, release, and catharsis that Jack and Ennis undergo as the movie's focus deftly switches from the suffocating homelife which a close-minded 1960s society has forced them on the beautiful vistas of the mountains, mountains. The audience understands, by the middle of the movie, that these mountains represent an impossibly fantastic but nevertheless real escape from the building pressure and desperation of Jack and Ennis in their loveless marriages.

In essence, this is what the movie is about. The story would be the same if it were 1950, Ennis was black, and Jack was a white woman, or if the two were separated by any other qualities that demanded their distance. The movie is only tangentially about homosexuality, and more about two lovers who can't ever

act as they should be allowed. Without any long sermons on the evils of homophobia or the broken morals of a past decade, Ang Lee has shown a "gay movie" that is not essentially about homosexuality, choosing instead to show the audience the crippling effects of isolation and the heartbreaking result of abandonment. Those trapped in a forbidden love inevitably suffer – such is the stuff of tragedy.

The fact remains, however, that homosexuality is displayed in the movie.

Is this a problem? The most sexually explicit scenes are full of breasts and women, but devoid of love. That this appeals more strongly to many moviegoer's sensibilities is perhaps somewhat frightening. At the end of such discussions, one must inevitably ask: how can one come to terms with his own homophobia in the context of the hateful violence that the characters in *Brokeback Mountain* suffer? Perhaps viewing the movie will help such people address that issue.



Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal stir up controversy

Rocco Surveys and Reports

by JOHN ROCCO
Entertainment Editor

Final Destination 3- (1 of 5 stars)

Starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead (*The Ring Two*) and Ryan Merriman (*The Ring Two*, *Halloween: Resurrection*). The final movie of the trilogy was definitely very gory but hysterical. It pretty much follows exactly the same plot as the other two, but the deaths look much more realistic in this one. I already knew that this movie would be a failure, but it was also very predictable. Please save your money and see another movie or even the original *Final Destination* because it is exactly the same plot but far more imaginably filmed.

When a Stranger Calls- (0.5 of 5 stars)

I didn't really expect too much at all from this movie when I saw the commercials, and I was right to think so. The movie has a very basic plot and doesn't allow the audience to sympathize over the protagonist, Camilla Belle (*The Patriot*, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*), which made all the "scary" moments unbelievable and unemotional for me. There are only two qualities of the entire movie that I can appreciate. First, the director chose many actors and actresses that are either not recognizable in other

films or are just beginning to rise in Hollywood. Second, for nearly a third of the movie the audience does not know if there is actually a killer stalking this babysitter or if she is just really paranoid because there is barely any evidence to support her hysteria. If you want to see a cheap movie that will give you some jumps, go see *When a Stranger Calls*.

The Squid and the Whale- (5 of 5 stars)

Starring Jeff Daniels (*Dumb & Dumber*, *Speed*), Laura Linney (*Love Actually*, *Mystic River*), and one of the Baldwins (William to be specific). I knew that this dark comedy would be incredible before I even saw it because Wes Anderson (director of *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Rushmore*, and *Bottle Rocket*) produced it. Directed by Noah Baumbach (writer of *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* and *Kicking and Screaming*), this film is definitely one of the best movies I have seen and probably will see all year. It is primarily based on the true stories of the director and his brother. The plot of the movie focuses on two boys in Brooklyn in the 1980s who struggle to live with their parents who have just divorced. If you value my opinions, then listen to my opinion on this one. You won't be disappointed.

THE MBA THEATRE PRESENTS:

The Government Inspector

A play written by the Russian Nikolai Gogol and translated into English, this hilarious comedy depicts a case of mistaken identity. A lowly young man is falsely believed to be the highly-respected and anxiously awaited government inspector from St. Petersburg, and the plot unfolds from that point. The production promises to be even more entertaining than the name of its playwright. Come see Senior Matthew Behar flirt shamelessly with the wife and daughter of the corrupt mayor, played by Tommy Corts, while a German doctor (Senior Pete Burgess) and other crooked town officials attempt to cover all of their wrongdoings.

PRESENTED IN THE PASCHALL THEATRE:

Thursday, February 23 -	7:30 PM
Friday, February 24 -	8:00 PM
Saturday, February 25 -	8:00 PM
Sunday, February 26 -	2:00 PM

Teachers Overworked

continued from p.8

better way to fill the remaining time available between the school end on Wednesday and the school beginning on Thursday than with wholesome learning?

To further reduce teachers' work loads, for exam review sheets teachers should simply photocopy the tables of contents from textbooks. This sheet will tell students exactly what they should emphasize in their reviews. If teachers feel extra generous, they can offer a simple outline, but be sure not to give any specific names, dates, formulas, or problems, which students should figure out for themselves.

If teachers follow these guidelines, MBA students will learn more effectively, and teachers will lead healthier lives.

Done anything entertaining lately? Write about it for The Bell Ringer.
bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com

Past but Not Gone: MBA Through the Years

by ALECMCGUFFEY
Features Editor

During the four years I have been at MBA, new faculty members have been appointed, houses have been demolished, the food service has changed, and advisory meetings have become daily occurrences. Yet in the grand scheme of things, these changes are minute, hardly even noticeable when compared with some of the transformations that have occurred over MBA's long and illustrious history. To find out more about MBA's old traditions and buildings and the changes it has experienced over the years, I talked with four current MBA teachers: Mrs. O'Connell (who has taught here since 1976), Mr. Gaither (since 1971), Mr. Compton (since 1968), and Mr. Elliott (since 1977). Based on their recollections, it is clear that MBA has changed greatly over the past 40 years, not just in physical shape, but also in the improvement in the quality of the school over time.

I first asked about changes to the actual campus, from new buildings to changes in old buildings. Mrs. O'Connell described to me the feel of the campus when she started teaching at MBA. "When I started in the fall of 1976, the cafeteria was in the basement of the Ball Building. There was a rudimentary art room down where the debate building is now (the debate building was smaller than it is now!) The Gym had science labs in the basement, and the Junior School was on the second floor of Ball (the third floor was a dusty attic)." If these arrangements sound unorthodox, Mrs. O'Connell went on to tell me that during the last assembly (held in Wallace at the time) before Christmas break, Headmaster Carter would dress up as Santa and call seniors up to sit on his knee and receive gag gifts, something I'm pretty sure hasn't happened in quite a while.

In terms of athletics, Mr. Elliott told me that when he came to MBA in 1977 there was not even a baseball field on campus. Since then, not only a baseball field, but also a new football field, track, weight room, and gym have been added. In '77, the Davis building had not yet been built and in its place was a driveway, which allowed people to drive all the way around campus.

Mr. Compton mentioned the numerous sports that have received recognition since he was appointed in 1968. These include both TSSAA sports, such as soccer and bowling, and even more non-TSSAA sports, including hockey, swimming, ultimate-Frisbee, and lacrosse. On a particularly interesting note, Mr. Compton reminded me that since his appointment at MBA, the high-school football rules have been changed to prevent private schools from playing public schools. He told me that "some of the best athletic matches I can remember came when MBA was playing Overton, Hillsboro, or Hillwood. You would play 10

regular games and not even leave Nashville, so students could easily attend all the games."

While sporting and campus changes have been dramatic, some of the largest have come from MBA's increased stressing of the importance of adding more AP and fine arts courses to the curriculum, as well as increasing the

The construction of the Davis building, influenced by Dr. Paschall and then-board chairman Ridley Wills, provided a great way for students who weren't involved in athletics to become more involved in the school. The art program, which was located in the Debate Building, was moved into Davis, as was the music program, giving much-needed

smoke. "Sometimes you would walk into Ball building and think it was on fire because there was so much smoke in the air." I haven't even mentioned that the absence of computers meant that everything was either hand-written or copied on a mimeograph-type machine." Yet, despite all of the significant changes MBA has experienced over the years, it is still a college-prep, all-boys school that stresses a strong liberal arts education. In recent years, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Gioia, MBA has risen from being recognized as a great school strictly on a local level, to a nationally-recognized high school which has produced such prominent figures as Senator Bill Frist and screen-writer Thomas Schulman.

MBA's changes over the years have been dramatic, be ready for a slew of new modifications to the school's campus in the coming years. As you have no doubt noticed, the football field turf is



The current Ball, Carter, and Wallace buildings have been decades in the making

number of required courses per year to five. Mrs. O'Connell points out that only "exceptional" students took five classes, and their reasons for taking five were carefully reviewed by faculty. It seems that although MBA has always stressed the Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete motto, only in the past few decades has the school significantly increased the offered AP courses in order to better prepare students for college. Also, as Mr. Elliott informed me, "we used to require two

space to allow both programs to flourish. The theater became increasingly important at MBA. "All plays used to be performed in Wallace," explains Mrs. O'Connell, "which used to have a stage at one end of the main floor." With the construction of the Davis building, however, MBA's thespians have been given a new venue in which to perform their plays, which are always some of the biggest crowd-pleasers of the year.

Over the years, MBA has grown. The student body has grown dramatically,

currently being replaced, and this summer a new language lab will be installed in place of the current one (the new lab will include computer screens at every station, and all will be connected to a database holding hundreds of multimedia files that can be viewed at the click of a button). In the next few years, the tennis courts will be moved, and a new academic building will be put up, which will house a technology department, the new quarters for the debate building, which will be moved to make room for the new cafeteria to be built in Wallace.

These next few years hold in store many changes for our school, yet when all is said and done, I believe the campus will be better than ever. Besides, as Mrs. O'Connell so wisely put it, at least the days of having to memorize words from the dictionary during Demerit Hall are gone.



The wall of the teachers' lounge honors those who have taught for many years

science credits and two history credits, whereas that number has now increased to three. Also, the Fine Arts are much more prominent than they used to be." Specifically, this last fact is very true. "One of the major graduation requirement changes has come with the addition of the fine arts credit," Mr. Compton says.

as well as the number of full-time faculty members. Mr. Gaither told me that every teacher shared a room with at least one other, and so the faculty room was always packed. And since teachers who smoked could do so in the faculty room, students often received graded homework and tests that smelled curiously of cigarette

The Bell Ringer

Official Student Publication of
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